

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 041221Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2164

S E C R E T MANAMA 0639

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS : MARR, EAID, BA

SUBJECT : MIDDLE EAST FORCE AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

REF : (A) MANAMA 619

(B) MANAMA 578

(C) MANAMA 574

(D) STATE 115879

1. JUNE 4 I CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER AND DISCUSSED ONCE AGAIN THE NEED TO WRAP UP MIDDLE EAST FORCE NEGOTIATIONS PRIOR TO JUNE 13 IF WE ARE TO USE FY 75 FUNDS FOR PROPOSED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN BAHRAIN. WE WENT CAREFULLY ONCE AGAIN OVER FAMILIAR GROUND (REFTELS) AND FOREIGN MINISTER SAID HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD USG'S POSITION AND THAT HE HOPED TO CONCLUDE NEGOTIATIONS FORMALLY IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS BUT COULD GIVE NO ASSURANCES OR COMMITMENT AT THIS TIME. HE STRESSED THAT WHILE GOB EAGER TO SEE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IMPLEMENTED, IT MUST CONSIDER THIS A "SECONDARY" PRIORITY IN RELATION TO WHAT IT REGARDS AS THE MAJOR POLITICAL CONSIDERATION INVOLVED IN MIDDLE EAST FORCE QUESTION. HENCE, GOB WILL TRY TO MEET THE JUNE 13 DEADLINE, BUT IF IT DECIDES IT CANNOT AND USG PERSISTS IN VIEW THAT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM CANNOT MOVE FORWARD PRIOR TO FORMAL CONCLUSION MIDDLE EAST FORCE NEGOTIATIONS, GOB WILL SIMPLY HAVE TO ACCEPT THIS AS AN UNFORTUNATE FACT OF LIFE.

2. I ASKED FOREIGN MINISTER IF IT WERE STILL "PHYSICALLY

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POSSIBLE" FOR GOB TO EXCHANGE THE DOCUMENTS WE HAVE NEGOTIATED

PRIOR TO JUNE 13 AND HE ASSURED ME GOB WOULD HAVE NO MECHANICAL DIFFICULTY IN MEETING DEADLINE IF IT MADE POLICY DECISION TO DO SO. HE ASKED THAT I CONTACT HIM JUNE 7 TO ARRANGE ANOTHER MEETING ON THIS QUESTION.

3. TO JUNE 4 MEETING I TOOK A DRAFT CONFIDENTIAL "LETTER OF INTENT" OF THE SORT SUGGESTED IN PARA 3 STATE 115879. FOR OBVIOUS TACTICAL REASONS, I HAD NOT YET RAISED WITH GOB THE POSSIBILITY OF MEETING THE JUNE 13 DEADLINE BY MEANS OF SUCH A LETTER OF INTENT RATHER THAN THE FORMAL EXCHANGE OF DOCUMENTS. ON BASIS FOREIGN MINISTER'S ASSURANCES ABOVE I KEPT THE PROPOSED DRAFT LETTER OF INTENT IN MY POCKET AND DID NOT RAISE THIS OPTION WITH HIM. IF IN OUR NEXT MEETING GOB HAS STILL NOT DECIDED TO EXCHANGE DOCUMENTS I WILL RAISE THIS OPTION.

4. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, I AM IN RECEIPT OF INSTRUCTIONS STATE 126818 ON APPROACH TO GOB ON QUESTION OF JURISDICTION IN A PENDING NARCOTICS CASE. FOREIGN MINISTER DID NOT RAISE GOB'S REQUEST FOR JURISDICTION WITH ME IN JUNE 4 MEETING AND IN ABSENCE OF GOB PRESSURE I AM PURPOSELY REFRAINING FROM CARRYING OUT INSTRUCTIONS UNTIL QUESTION OF GOB'S MEETING JUNE 13 DEADLINE FOR CONCLUSION MIDDLE EAST FORCE NEGOTIATIONS IS RESOLVED ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.

5. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO PASS THIS MESSAGE TO SECDEF, CNO, CINCUSNAVEUR AND COMIDEASTFOR.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, NEGOTIATIONS, MILITARY BASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MANAMA00639
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750195-0173
From: MANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750682/aaaacwzx.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 MANAMA 619
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <21 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: : MIDDLE EAST FORCE AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
TAGS: MARR, EAID, BA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006